



*Office of the County Mayor*

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**John M. Gentry**  
County Mayor

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August 30, 2011

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Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: CSX Transportation Abandonment of the Athens Branch in McMinn County, Tennessee,  
(STB Docket No. AB-55/Sub No. 694X)**

Dear Secretary:

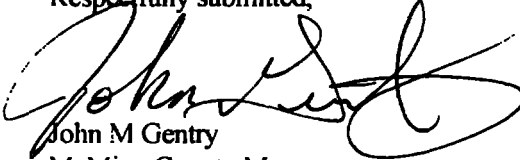
I am writing on behalf of McMinn County, Tennessee to request another 180 day extension of the deadline for negotiations with CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT"), regarding the Notice of Interim Trail Use in the above captioned proceeding with respect to the 6.4 mile portion of the line ("the Athens Branch") that extends northwest from near Englewood to Athens. (between 0KW327.0 and 0KW333.4 including both spurs located after 0KW 332). Pursuant to the March 16, 2011 decision ("the Decision") of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires September 2, 2011 ("Negotiating Deadline").

CSXT has recently completed an appraisal of the line. The county has completed a feasibility study and partial funding is at hand. We now expect to be able to enter negotiations with the completion of the appraisal.

The County respectfully requests an extension to February 28, 2012 (180 calendar days for the Negotiating Deadline). CSX Transportation has acknowledged that it concurs with this request and will file a letter of concurrence once it receives a copy of this letter.

In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Boards filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

  
John M Gentry  
McMinn County Mayor

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cc: Bruce McMahon